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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Burrillville High School Technology Teacher named 2003 R.I. Teacher of the Year**

BURRILLVILLE—In a surprise ceremony this morning (Monday, November 4) at Burrillville High School, Charles L. (“Chuck”) Boucher, chairman of the Applied Science & Technology Department, was named the 2003 Rhode Island Teacher of the Year.

Boucher, who is a 1977 graduate of the school and has taught there for the past 17 years, is known for his innovative courses. Students in his computer-assisting drafting course, for example, have designed award-winning floats for the Bristol Fourth of July parade, they have helped develop architectural drawings for a hospital in Worcester, they have designed a sculpture that is on display at the Mohegan Sun Casino, and they have created designs for America’s Cup yachts.

“I consider my greatest contributions to education to be a sincere love of my students and what I am teaching them,” Boucher said in his application for the award. “I am constantly looking to bring cutting-edge innovative courses to our system that convey real-world applications of the knowledge my students have acquired.”

As department chairman, Boucher has helped to develop two academies for the school: The Culinary Arts Academy and the Arts & Entertainment Academy.

Among his other awards and honors, this year he has won a Radio Shack National Teacher Award and a PUC award for Outstanding Technology Educator. In 1998, the high-school students selected him as the school’s teacher of the year.

In presenting Boucher with the award, James A. DiPrete, chairman of the R.I. Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education, said: “Charles Boucher is a model of excellence for all Rhode Island teachers. Through his innovations and his enthusiasm, through his leadership as department chair and his hands-on approach to learning, and through his career-long dedication to the Burrillville schools, he’s a perfect example of the high standards we expect from all of our educators and all of our students.”

As winner of the statewide award, Boucher is now a candidate for the 2003 National Teacher of the Year, to be selected in February.

Boucher, who lives in Harrisville (Burrillville), is a graduate of Rhode Island College and holds a master’s degree in technology education from Central Connecticut State University. As department chair, he oversees the high school’s courses in culinary arts, business, family sciences and services, and technology education. In his tenure at the school, he has taught all of the technology courses.